

Sparkling

COLEEN GRAY



ORIS JENN-SEN, a radiant bluecycd blonde from Hutchinson, Minnesota, is riding on Cloud 17. As Colcen Gray she sky-rocketed to fame in one of her early pictures by appearing in the coveted rolo of Bing Crosby's

leading lady in his picture—"Riding High"—from then on, Coleen went "riding high" to stardom.

Of course, it took more than a bright smile from Lady Luck to turn the trick. Coleen got the cherished part in competition with a half dozen other comely and talented aspirants who made the deciding screen tests with Crosby. It wasn't until two long, anguishing weeks later that the final votes were in and the girl from Minnesota was declared the winner.

Coleen Gray was born on October 23, 1922, at Staplehurst, Nebraska, the daughter of Arthur L. Jensen, a farmer, and Anna Thomsen Jensen. When the little girl was seven the family moved to Hutchinson where she attended grade and high school. She worked her way through Hamline University, graduating in 1943. She worked as a floor girl in a cafeteria. One summer Coleen held down two jobs, cataloguing phonograph records during the day and waiting tables in the Hotel St. Paul at night. She spent the next two summer vacations as a waitress at the Glacier Park Hotel.

"I even mowed lawns to pick up extra money during the war when there weren't enough men to do the work," she recalls.

Hometown and school classmates of Coleen got a chance to see how she looked as a child and as a student. For she had to dig into the family album to supply the film's set dresser with old photographs of herself to place on the desk of her screen father, played by the veteran Charles Bickford.

Colen has a good musical background. She sang in the Hamline Girls' Choir trained by Ernest Krenek, who composed the opera "Johany Spieltauf." She was one of a group of ten members of the choir selected to appear with the Minneapolis Symphony.

She also received her first taste of theatrical greasepaint when she tried out for the role in "Letters to Lucerne" during her senior year at the university, and was awarded the second lead. But it wouldn't be true to say she never got over that first encounter with the drama or that she was then and there incurably bitten by the acting bug.

She had no secret ambition or burning desire to become a movie actress when she headed West after graduation. She just took a trip to see the country. Actually, she didn't know what she wanted to do with her life. She waited on tables in La Jolla, California, then moved to Los Angeles where she held down an assortment of jobs while taking summer college courses in Spanish and art.

She became an actress by accident. One day she happened to read an announcement that auditions were being held at a Los Angeles drama school. The play was the same "Letters to Lucerne" in which she had appeared in the university, and for fun she decided to try her luck again. She was the most surprised person of all when she landed the leading feminine part.

She continued her course at the drama school and several months and plays later she was spotted by a 20th Century-Fox studio talent scout. He set up a screen test which had Coleen signing her name on the dotted line of a contract.

Her first film role was a small but telling part in "Red River," as John Wayne's sweetheart, who is killed by the Indians early in the picture. She got a crack at a bigger and meatier role in "Kiss of Death," in which she was Victor Mature's wife. The up-and-coming actress from Minnesota turned in a top-notch performance and the fans took an immediate liking to the fresh new screen face. She has continued her rapid climb up the Hollywood ladder in "Nightmare Alley," "Fury at Furnace Creek," "Sand," and others.

Ambitious to be the best actress she can make herself, Coleen already has her eye on new theatrical worlds to conquer someday—Broadway. She wants to prove her dramatic mettle in a New York stage hit. Coleen did one stage play, "Leaf and Bough," two years ago while she was in New York looking for footlight roles before opportunity knocked on her door.

"The only trouble with that play was," she relates, "that it opened Friday night and closed Saturday night."

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ROMANCE, HATE AND TREASON COMBINE TO MAKE A TERRIBLE BREW AS HATRED RIDES THE DAYS OF RECONSTRUCTION. YET, OUT OF THE FEVER AND FIGHT RISES A HERO TO BRING HONOR TO THE























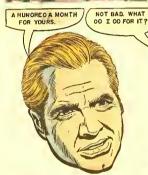








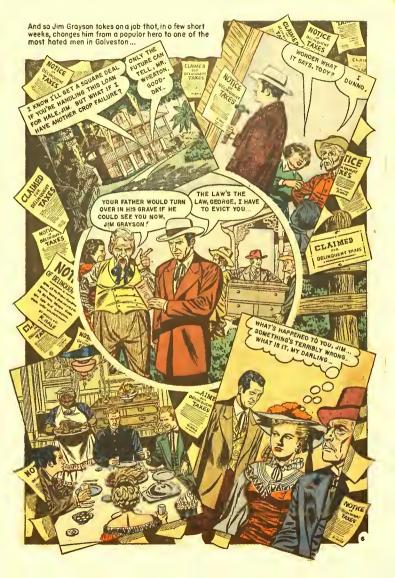




















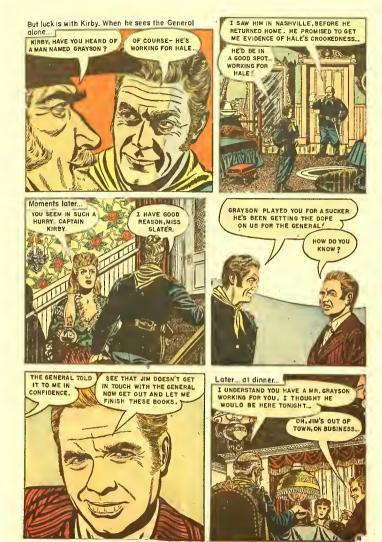






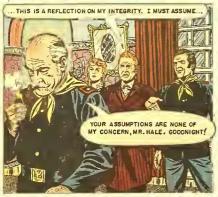








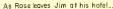












JIM, I THINK ROGER'S BALLOON IS SINKING. SO I'M TELLING YOU THIS ... HE KNOWS YOU SAW HILDEBRANOT BEFORE YOU CAME HOME. IF I CAN HELP, YOU KNOW WHERE TO FIND ME.



Meonwhile ... THE GENERAL MURDER! I DON'T LIKE WILL THINK JIM WANTS TO IT. EVEN IF YOU DO SEE HIM. GIVE ME A GOOD THINK YOU HAVE JIM HALF HOUR BEFORE YOU GRAYSON IN A FRAME. OELIVER THIS PHONY NOTE

And so... the forged note is delivered, and General Hildebrondt goes to his doom...!









At Rose's door ... GET SOME REST HONEY. DON'T WORRY. HILDEBRANDT ... SHOT YOU'RE SAFE IN MY ROOM ... THEY'RE HERE. AFTER ME ... I ... GOT EVIDENCE ...

SORRY, JIM...BUT A DEAD MAN IS NO GOOD TO ME. ROGER WILL HAVE TO SIGN A PAPER SAYING I'M TO BE HIS WIFE. AND INHERIT ALL HIS PROPERTY, THOUGH. BEFORE HE GETS YOU.

Later, ..

THANKS, RDGER. AND THANK YDU... FOR WITNESSING THIS 🚄 LITTLE DOCUMENT, LT, ADAMS. AND NOW ... JIM GRAYSON IS AT MY HOUSE.

LT. ADAMS! SUMMON KIRBY! TELL HIM I'M SLATER, WE'VE GDT JIM GRAYS DN_NDW !

Hama a

Hoofbeats thunder over the country roads all night as soldiers hunt for Jim Grayson... Wanted for Murder.



But when Hole got there, Jim was nowhere in sight...

WHY DIDN'T YDU HAVE HE WAS SD WEAK. SOMEBODY WATCH? HE COULD HARDLY MDVE. I NEVER THOUGHT.

After the soldiers pass...







heols slowly... Dnd Jone finds it more and more difficult to evode Kirby's troops...

I'M CERTAIN I WAS FOLLOWED TDNIGHT. THAT'S WHY I GUT EACK AND FOLLOWED THE STREAM DDWN...

IF I DNLY HAD THAT DDWN...

TO HIDE...











With proof of Jim's innocence...Jane rides furiously toward town...

KIRBY AND HALE! I'VE GOT TO HIDE... CAN'T LET THEM CATCH ME NOW

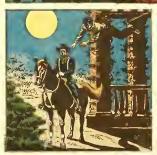




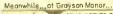












NO ONE'S ALLOWED INSIDE, MISS. I'VE GOT TO SEE MY FATHER... OR. COLFAX. I WAS TOLD HE WAS INSIDE WITH GENERAL MORRIS.













Meanwhile, Captain Kirby and his men are riding hard after Jim...

































But living in Washington took more money thon I thought, so I become a football player with the Department of the Interior...earning \$25 for each quarter I played... THAT PHONY NAME



Then I came to New York--but nobody was eoger to grab me, so I became a paint solesman.

I DIDN'T NEED ANY PAINT WHEN YOU CAMEIN HERE, YOUNG FELLOW-- BUT YOU'VE TALKED ME INTO IT!

I monaged to lond a few small parts in a small theotre group, but it wasn't until I landed the leod in "Paris Bound" that things sarred looking up. I guess It was becouse I met Leonore Kip... You're wasting your) O YOU THINK

TIME PLAYING IN THE SO, LEONORE?









At the 1936 Olympics, I was a 13 year old girl skoter!























Republic.







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Hollywood's Tallest Leading Man

WILLIARD PARKER



PROBABLY the best prospect the New York State police ever let slip through their fingers is one Williard Parker, Hollywood's tallest leading man.

He had admirable physical qualifications, being six feet, five

inches of virile man with light brown curly hair and steely blue eyes. But these qualifications were equally admirable for another calling, acting, and shis is the one he followed. Those six feet five arches of he-man make him a ready choice for his current role in Pine-Thomas "Vanquished."

Parker first set foot in Hollywood almost ten years ago as a tennis ace attached to the teaching staff of Elisworth Vines. His most burning ambition at the time was to spend an evening at the Trocadero, of which he had read much. He took his heroic frame and square blond features through the door of the Troc, and bumped smack into Zeppo Marx, who shook one of his hands and put a contract to manage him in the other.

Williard Parker was screen-tested and to his amazement he was immediately assigned a role.

He did a few Western stints and a bit in Edward G. Robinson's "Slight Case of Murder," then hied himself to Broadway to improve his acting. After a season in stock, he made his Broadway debut in "Johnny Belinda." He went into the "beautiful hunk of man" role in Gertrude Lawrence's "Lady In The Dark," the same role that "trade marked" an earlier performer in it, Victor Mature.

Born Worster Van Eps, he took his professional name from his distinguished godfather, Dr. Willard Parker, after whom a hospital is also named. Van Eps is a name of great prestige in the Netherlands where all the actor's uncles were officers in the Dutch army, and have been decorated by Queen Wilhelmina. His father, August Van Eps, was a Netherland Vice Consul in the United States.

Parker made only one picture after his return to Hollywood before he was called by the Army and it was "What a Woman," starring Rosalind Russell.

His first picture on returning from service, in the military police and then in the combat engineers, was an 18th century swash-buckler, "The Fighting Guardsman," in which he played a sword-wielding defender of the oppressed. Next, he played with Evelyn Keyes and Glenn Ford in "The Matine of Millie."

He left a Columbia contract after "Millie" to freelance, but returned almost the same week to star in "The Wreck of the Hesperus," which he followed with a co-starring role with Dorothy Lamour, and Don Ameche. In Caribbean, Williard Parker was seen in the role of a slave overseer on an island ruled by a ruthless, cold-hearted tyrant. Parker and John Payne (who co-starred with Arlene Dahl) yie for the love of beautiful Arlene.

Parker was born in New York, and lived in Richmond Hill, Long Island, where he went to grammar and high school. His best subject was math. He participated in all sports. He lived only a few miles from the tennis center of the world and started playing the game at Forest Hills, when he was just six years old, developing the skill which later enabled him to tutor in it.

His parents would have preferred him to become a doctor. His first venture in business was as a meter reader for the New York Edison Company, earning \$18 a week.

Parker's favorite entertainment is card-playing (poker, bridge and gin), buffet suppers, and movies. He sees pictures three times a week when he can, and prefers the blood-and-thunder type He enjoys any legitimate play that is a good on oit is kind.

His favorite playwrights are Moss Hart, Clifforc Odes, and George Kaufman; his favorite authors are Ernest Hemingway, Jack London and Thomas Wolfe. He reads every word he can find by newsmen Quentin Reynolds and Damon Runyon, and follows the comic strips.

In sports he plays tennis (of course) and golf, likes to be a spectator at baseball and prizefights. A hunting trip is his idea of relaxation plus excitement.

Parker is married to actress Virginia Field. They are in business together also, owning one of Beverly Hills' most successful liquor stores.





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Aug. 1953

COVER - PHOTO

VANQUISHED STAR PROFILES (6x1)

WHO AM I? - JOSEPH CONEN

" ? - VERA RALSTON

H. LE Donx *

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FRANK FOGARTY * McARDUE

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JAY BERRILL 2